Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended):   A method for switching on a subscriber signal, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a transmission path from a calling terminal device of a switched-through telecommunications network to a called terminal device of a packet transmission network using a network gateway function;

indicating, via a signaling message which is defined for the packet transmission network and which comes from the called terminal device end, that the called terminal device is signaling the call to a subscriber;

generating, when the signaling message which is defined for the packet transmission network occurs, a following signaling message which indicates that a subscriber signal has not yet been generated for the calling terminal device;

processing the following signaling message, wherein the switching-on of the subscriber signal for the calling terminal device is brought about; and

generating a standard signaling message which is defined for the switched-through telecommunications network and which indicates that a the subscriber signal has already been generated for the calling terminal device,

wherein signaling messages with a same structure as the following signaling message are transmitted, within a switching office of the switched-through network, to at least one of connecting units for connecting subscribers, connecting units for connecting user data transmission paths to other switching offices of the switched-through network, and connecting units for providing the network gateway function.

Claim 2 (original):   A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the following signaling message is a signaling message which is defined for the

switched-through telecommunications network and with which it is indicated that sufficient dialing digits have been transmitted.

Claim 3 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the standard signaling message and the following signaling message is a signaling message which has a structure which is defined in a standard which is one of an ISUP standard, a BICC standard, and a standard which is based on one of these standards.

Claim 4 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the following signaling message is a signaling message which is defined for the signaling within a switching office of the switched-through network.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the network gateway function is provided using at least two spatially separated units.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 6, the method further comprising the steps of:

transmitting, via a network gateway unit, the user data between the switched-through telecommunications network and the packet transmission network; and

controlling the network gateway unit by a spatially remote control unit, via a defined control protocol which is one of protocol H.248, protocol MGCP, and a protocol based on one of these said H.248 or MGCP protocols.

Claim 8 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 6, the method further comprising the step of:

transmitting the standard signaling message via a switching office of the switched-through telecommunications network.

Claim 9 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 8, the method further comprising the step of:

generating the following signaling message via a further spatially remote switching office of the switched-through telecommunications network.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the packet transmission network is a network which operates according to one of an Internet protocol, an ATM protocol, and a protocol based on one of these said Internet or ATM protocols.

Claim 11 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the switched-through telecommunications network is a network in which data are transmitted in time slots according to a time-division multiplex method.

Claim 12 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the switched-through telecommunications network signaling is carried out according to one of an ISUP standard and a standard which is based on the ISUP standard.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the packet transmission network signaling is carried out according to one of an H.323 protocol, an SIP protocol, and a protocol which is based on one of these said H.323 or SIP protocols.

Claim 14 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is no further switching office of the switched-through telecommunications network in at least one of the signaling path and the transmission path between a switching office which brings about the switching on of the subscriber signal and a unit of the network gateway function.

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Claim 15 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is at least one further switching office of the switched-through telecommunications network in at least one of the signaling path and the transmission path between a switching office which brings about the switching on of the subscriber signal and a unit on the network gateway function.

Claim 16 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the switching office which brings about the switching on is an originating switching office to which the calling terminal device is connected.

Claim 17 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subscriber signal is fed into a unit for transferring user data between the switched-through telecommunications network and the packet transmission network.

Claim 18 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subscriber signal is one of a ringing tone and an announcement which indicates that the called terminal device is signaling the call for a subscriber.

Claim 19 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the following signal message contains an indicator whose value depends on whether the called terminal device is occupied, the indicator of an occupied state and the indicator of the subscriber signal are checked by reference to the following signaling message, and the switching on of the subscriber signal is brought about only if the called terminal device is free and the subscriber signal has not yet been generated.

Claim 20 (original): A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein a switching office is provided such that during operation of the switching office the method is carried out.

Claim 21 (original):   A method for switching on a subscriber signal as claimed in claim 1, wherein upon execution of an instruction sequence of a program, the method is carried out by a processor.

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